

Docket No. 56876

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: K. OSTHER et al.

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO. EL 885010382 US

FOR: IN VITRO REPAIR OF BONE AND/OR CARTILAGE DEFECTS

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Applicants file herewith the above-identified application. Please amend the application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

✓ Please cancel claims 1-28 without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims.

29. A cartilage membrane comprising at least one surface part carrying a composition comprising at least one stimulation molecule, which induces a signal transduction in chondroblast/chondrocytes and which is selected from the group consisting of collagen proteins, proteoglycans, and non-collagenous proteins.

30. A cartilage membrane according to claim 29 wherein the collagen protein is collagen types II, VI, IX, or XI, the proteoglycan is aggrecan, decorin, fibromodulin or biglycan, and the non-collagenous protein is cryoprecipitate, fibronectin, vitronectin, fibronogen, fibrillin, kistrin, echistatin von Willebrand factor, tenascin or anchorin CII.